

TABLE A:
Leading Causes of Death* by Age Group
North Carolina Residents, 2002

ALL AGES			INFANTS (AGE <1)		
Rank	Cause	Number	Rank	Cause	Number
1	Diseases of the heart	18,453	1	Short gestation – low birthweight	188
2	Cancer	16,163	2	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	161
3	Cerebrovascular disease.....	5,236	3	SIDS	81
4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	3,670	4	Maternal complications	66
5	Diabetes mellitus	2,204	5	Complications of placenta	48
6	Other unintentional injuries	1,992	6	Bacterial sepsis	32
7	Alzheimer's disease	1,959	7	Respiratory distress	31
8	Pneumonia and influenza	1,894	8	Diseases of the circulatory system	26
9	Motor vehicle injuries	1,637	9	Intrauterine hypoxia & birth asphyxia	22
10	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis ..	1,432	10	Other unintentional injuries	21
	All other causes (Residual)	17,140		All other causes (Residual)	281
Total Deaths – All Causes			Total Deaths – All Causes		
71,780			957		

1 - 4 YEARS			5 - 14 YEARS		
Rank	Cause	Number	Rank	Cause	Number
1	Motor vehicle injuries	25	1	Motor vehicle injuries	61
2	Other unintentional injuries	20	2	Other unintentional injuries	38
3	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	12	3	Cancer	32
4	Cancer	10	4	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	13
5	Homicide	9	5	Homicide	11
6	Septicemia	4	6	Diseases of the heart	10
7	Diseases of the heart	3	7	Suicide	6
8	Cerebrovascular disease	2	8	Pneumonia and influenza	3
	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	2	9	Anemias	2
10	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	1		Cerebrovascular disease	2
	All other causes (Residual)	44		All other causes (Residual)	52
Total Deaths – All Causes			Total Deaths – All Causes		
132			230		

*Leading causes of death are generated from a list of 51 causes of death categories developed by the National Center for Health Statistics to promote comparability in analyses of mortality. For deaths under one year of age, a list of 72 causes of death was used. See Appendices for the ICD-10 codes for these lists of causes.

TABLE A: (cont.)
Leading Causes of Death* by Age Group
North Carolina Residents, 2002

15 - 24 YEARS			25 - 44 YEARS		
Rank	Cause	Number	Rank	Cause	Number
1	Motor vehicle injuries	387	1	Cancer	654
2	Homicide	161	2	Motor vehicle injuries.....	547
3	Other unintentional injuries	135	3	Diseases of the heart	545
4	Suicide	89	4	Other unintentional injuries	460
5	Cancer	40	5	Suicide	379
6	Diseases of the heart	29	6	Homicide	303
7	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	12	7	HIV disease	266
8	HIV disease	7	8	Cerebrovascular disease	105
9	Septicemia	5	9	Diabetes mellitus	99
10	Anemias	4	10	Chronic liver disease/cirrhosis.....	84
	All other causes (Residual)	120		All other causes (Residual)	841
Total Deaths – All Causes			Total Deaths – All Causes		
989			<b">4,283</b">		

45 - 64 YEARS			AGES 65 & OVER		
Rank	Cause	Number	Rank	Cause	Number
1	Cancer	4,523	1	Diseases of the heart	14,693
2	Diseases of the heart	3,153	2	Cancer	10,903
3	Cerebrovascular disease	545	3	Cerebrovascular disease	4,579
4	Diabetes mellitus	535	4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	3,155
5	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	463	5	Alzheimer's disease	1,939
6	Other unintentional injuries	388	6	Pneumonia and influenza	1,688
7	Motor vehicle injuries	375	7	Diabetes mellitus	1,565
8	Chronic liver disease	355	8	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis ..	1,159
9	Suicide	301	9	Other unintentional injuries	930
10	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis ..	228	10	Septicemia	879
	All other causes (Residual)	2,712		All other causes (Residual)	10,121
Total Deaths – All Causes			Total Deaths – All Causes		
13,578			<b">51,611</b">		

*Leading causes of death are generated from a list of 51 causes of death categories developed by the National Center for Health Statistics to promote comparability in analyses of mortality. For deaths under one year of age, a list of 72 causes of death was used. See Appendices for the ICD-10 codes for these lists of causes.

TABLE B:
Leading Causes of Death* by Race
North Carolina Residents, 2002

WHITE		BLACK			
Rank	Cause	Number	Rank	Cause	Number
1	Diseases of the heart	14,526	1	Diseases of the heart	3,722
2	Cancer	12,713	2	Cancer	3,286
3	Cerebrovascular disease	3,999	3	Cerebrovascular disease	1,167
4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	3,250	4	Diabetes mellitus	729
5	Alzheimer's disease	1,703	5	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	451
6	Other unintentional injuries	1,630	6	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	395
7	Pneumonia & influenza	1,558	7	HIV disease	385
8	Diabetes mellitus	1,433	8	Motor vehicle injuries	365
9	Motor vehicle injuries	1,213	9	Other unintentional injuries	328
10	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	960	10	Pneumonia & influenza	326
All other causes (Residual)		12,724	All other causes (Residual)		4,058
Total Deaths – All Causes		55,709	Total Deaths – All Causes		15,212

AMERICAN INDIAN

Rank	Cause	Number
1	Diseases of the heart	165
2	Cancer	106
3	Cerebrovascular disease	45
4	Motor vehicle injuries	43
5	Diabetes mellitus	36
6	Other unintentional injuries	24
7	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	20
8	Homicide	15
	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	15
10	Alzheimer's disease	10
All other causes (Residual)		146
Total Deaths – All Causes		625

*Racial group totals will not add up to overall total because deaths occurring among other races are not included here. Caution should be taken when comparing the number of deaths across racial groupings. Population size varies considerably from one racial group to another. The number of deaths for each group is to a large extent a reflection of that population size.

TABLE C:
Leading Causes of Death by Sex
North Carolina Residents, 2002

FEMALE		MALE			
Rank	Cause	Number	Rank	Cause	Number
1	Diseases of the heart	9,320	1	Diseases of the heart	9,133
2	Cancer	7,640	2	Cancer	8,523
3	Cerebrovascular disease	3,291	3	Cerebrovascular disease	1,945
4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	1,822	4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	1,848
5	Alzheimer's disease	1,418	5	Other unintentional injuries	1,204
6	Diabetes mellitus	1,239	6	Motor vehicle injuries	1,137
7	Pneumonia & influenza	1,105	7	Diabetes mellitus	965
8	Other unintentional injuries	788	8	Pneumonia & influenza	789
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	753	9	Suicide	779
10	Septicemia	670	10	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	679
All other causes (Residual)		8,553	All other causes (Residual)		8,179
Total Death – All Causes		36,599	Total Deaths – All Causes		35,181

TABLE D:
Leading Causes of Death by Hispanicity
North Carolina Residents, 2002

HISPANIC		NON-HISPANIC			
Rank	Cause	Number	Rank	Cause	Number
1	Motor vehicle injuries	130	1	Diseases of the heart	18,401
2	Cancer	71	2	Cancer	16,092
3	Homicide	68	3	Cerebrovascular disease	5,211
4	Other unintentional injuries	61	4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	3,666
5	Diseases of the heart	52	5	Diabetes mellitus	2,195
6	Conditions originating in the perinatal period ...	34	6	Alzheimer's disease	1,957
7	Congenital anomalies	28	7	Other unintentional injuries	1,931
8	Cerebrovascular disease	25	8	Pneumonia & influenza	1,885
9	Suicide	21	9	Motor vehicle injuries	1,507
10	HIV disease	11	10	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis ..	1,430
All other causes (Residual)		112	All other causes (Residual)		16,892
Total Deaths – All Causes		613	Total Deaths – All Causes		71,167

Table E:
Mortality Statistics Summary for 1999-2002
All North Carolina Residents*

Leading Causes of Death	Number of Deaths 2002	Death Rate 2002	Number of Deaths 1999-2002	Death Rate 1999-2002	Adjusted Death Rate 1999-2002
Total Heart Disease	18,453	221.6	75,969	233.5	246.1
Cerebrovascular Disease	5,236	62.9	21,921	67.4	72.0
Atherosclerosis	310	3.7	1,473	4.5	4.9
Total Cancer	16,163	194.1	63,709	195.8	200.8
Lip, Oral Cavity, and Pharynx	235	2.8	867	2.7	2.7
Stomach	305	3.7	1,288	4.0	4.1
Colon, Rectum, and Anus	1,573	18.9	6,179	19.0	19.6
Liver	348	4.2	1,255	3.9	3.9
Pancreas	869	10.4	3,347	10.3	10.6
Larynx	128	1.5	488	1.5	1.5
Trachea, Bronchus, and Lung	4,858	58.3	19,293	59.3	60.3
Malignant Melanoma of Skin	228	2.7	926	2.8	2.9
Bladder	330	4.0	1,209	3.7	3.9
Brain	373	4.5	1,433	4.4	4.4
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	625	7.5	2,379	7.3	7.5
Leukemia	577	6.9	2,293	7.0	7.3
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	484	5.8	1,867	5.7	5.7
Diabetes Mellitus	2,204	26.5	8,510	26.2	27.1
Pneumonia and Influenza	1,894	22.7	7,481	23.0	24.8
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	3,670	44.1	14,462	44.4	46.5
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	732	8.8	2,964	9.1	9.1
Septicemia	1,161	13.9	4,291	13.2	13.8
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syn., and Nephrosis	1,432	17.2	5,202	16.0	16.8
Motor Vehicle Unintentional Injuries	1,637	19.7	6,404	19.7	19.6
Other Unintentional Injuries	1,992	23.9	7,286	22.4	23.1
Suicide	969	11.6	3,786	11.6	11.6
Homicide	639	7.7	2,522	7.8	7.6
Alzheimer's Disease	1,959	23.5	6,927	21.3	23.3
Total Deaths – All Causes	71,780	862.1	283,554	871.5	910.2

Table F:
Sex-Specific Mortality Statistics Summary for 1999-2002
All North Carolina Residents*

Leading Causes of Death	Number of Deaths 2002	Death Rate 2002	Number of Deaths 1999-2002	Death Rate 1999-2002	Adjusted Death Rate 1999-2002
Breast	1,228	29.0	4,647	28.0	25.6
Cervix Uteri	113	2.7	505	3.0	2.9
Ovary	437	10.3	1,592	9.6	8.7
Prostate	890	21.8	3,680	23.1	33.2

Note: All death rates are per 100,000 population. The death rates in Table E cannot be compared to those in Table F because the denominators are sex-specific. Therefore, in ranking the causes of death – for example, in ranking the leading cancer sites – one must use the observed numbers of deaths. Breast cancer includes a very few deaths to males, while the denominator of the rate is the female population, the primary population at risk.

* See Appendices for Cause of Death codes.